

HOUSE BILL 301  
By Kernell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 65,  
Chapter 32, relative to certain utility cut-off policies  
and procedures.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 65, Chapter 32, is amended by adding  
the following language as a new, appropriately designated part:

**§ 65-32-201.** As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires, "utility"  
means any utility furnishing electrical, gas, or water services to users for a fee.

**§ 65-32-202.**

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a utility shall not  
discontinue service to a user for nonpayment of fees if the user provides the  
utility with notarized documentation from his or her attending physician stating  
that the user is currently hospitalized or has been hospitalized within the  
preceding thirty (30) calendar days. The notarized documentation must be  
delivered to the utility within fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of the  
utility's notification of intent to discontinue service for nonpayment. The utility  
shall continue to provide services without payment for at least thirty (30) calendar  
days from the date it receives the notarized documentation. The user shall make  
payment of the arrearage or make payment arrangements acceptable to the  
utility prior to expiration of the thirty-day period.

(b) If a utility discontinues service prior to receiving the notarized  
documentation, then the utility shall resume service without any additional fee for

a period of thirty (30) calendar days from the date it receives the notarized documentation.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.